

County News and Views

MAY 2001

From the Office of Fifth District Supervisor Jerry Eaves

Former County Medical Center Reuse

The San Bernardino City Unified School District is interested in acquiring up to 12 acres of land fronting Gilbert Street at the former San Bernardino County Medical Center. Anton Elementary School is proposed for the site which is on the southeast portion of the property. The prototype school design is intended to serve student enrollment of 700 students and total building square footage of 50,792.

The school district's architect has developed a site plan with extensive school playfields designed for community use after school hours. The district is also considering opening the school's proposed media center for community use such as continuing education. Funding for purchase of the land is expected shortly with construction funding to follow later in 2001.

I believe the proposed school is a very positive addition to the neighborhood. The County Medical Center Reuse Committee has worked tirelessly to promote reuse activities that provide a resource for the neighborhood surrounding the former medical center. I look forward to the development of additional uses for the property that provide benefit to the neighborhood.

Arrowhead Regional Medical Center Pet-Assisted Therapy Program

It all began last November when Charles White, Occupational Therapy Supervisor, interviewed a potential employee, Barbara Haunsen-Reyez. During the process Barbara began to tell him a story that as a burn survivor herself, she adopted a dog that had also suffered burns. The dog, named Sweetheart, eventually recovered thanks to the efforts of veterinarians. Barbara spent many hours in the following months to help the dog recover. Touched by the story, White began to research the possibility of utilizing dogs for therapy at ARMC's Behavioral Health Unit.

Conversations with lead psychiatrist, Dr. Randy Bazie, revealed not only his interest in pet-assisted therapy but also the support of White's supervisor, ARMC Behavioral Health Clinical Services Director, Deborah Lucas. There was also support from the Medical Director of Behavioral Health, Dr. Keith Gordon. Deborah Lucas is excited about the prospects, "Not only are we pursuing the latest forms of quality care, but patients, staff and the community will reap the benefits of utilizing pets in patient's recovery."

The pet-assisted therapy program began officially on May 1 with a ribbon cutting ceremony at ARMC's Behavioral Health Unit.

Handler/dog teams are evaluated for acceptance into the program by Charlie and Sally Brognola, both Certified Delta Society Evaluators. As soon as the program is established within Arrowhead's Behavioral Health Unit, it will expand to include the main hospital with Barbara Haunsen-Reyez' dog, Sweetheart, as the lead dog for ARMC's Burn Center.

Anyone interested in becoming an ARMC Pet-Assisted Therapy volunteer should contact Patricia Redinger or Bonita Pipes in the ARMC Volunteer Management Department at (909) 590-6240.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

State of the County Address
Delivered by Board of Supervisor's Chairman Aguiar
June 11, 2001 at 11:30 am
Luncheon - \$25 per person
Radisson Hotel in San Bernardino
909-387-5031

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